



Emerald Ash Borer Cost-Share Program

Cost Assistance for Protecting Ash Trees

Forestry Topic 32

www.dof.virginia.gov

January 2019

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is the most destructive forest insect ever to invade the United States, and has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in urban, rural and forested settings. This wood-boring beetle is particularly dangerous to our native ash species because it: reproduces in large quantities, matures quickly, disrupts the trees' uptake of water and nutrients, and spreads rapidly via human-mediated transport and natural dispersal.

The devastation is clearly visible in many counties across Virginia, but healthy ash are still present at the forefront of EAB invasion. After witnessing widespread ash mortality in the northern United States for more than a decade, a few things become clear: without intervention, our ash resource will face near extinction, and certain chemical treatments are effective when applied correctly.

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) is offering a treatment incentive cost-share program in 2019 to support injection applications of approved pesticides on genetically-, ecologically-, historically- or publicly-valuable ash. A single treatment is often costly for a landowner or organization, yet removal costs are often more expensive when considering the long-term value live trees can provide. The incentive covers 50 percent of treatment costs charged by the Certified Pesticide Applicator, not to exceed \$1,250 in cost-share payments per landowner or \$5,000 in cost-share payments per organization.



Program Details

- ◆ Ash (*Fraxinus*) species must be green, white, black, pumpkin, Carolina or blue ash.
- ◆ Tree(s) must be at least 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH).
- ◆ Estimated percentage of live crown at the time of treatment must be at least 70 percent (no more than 30 percent canopy loss).
- ◆ A VDOF forester must assess the tree(s) prior to treatment to be considered for cost-share funds. Contact your local forester today.
- ◆ Only trunk injection treatment of emamectin benzoate products will be cost-shared.
- ◆ Open enrollment will take place April 1st through June 28th, 2019.
- ◆ Cost-share payment will not exceed 50 percent of the bid/treatment quote submitted with the application prior to treatment.
- ◆ For organizations conducting treatments internally, the incentive payment covers 50 percent of direct project costs, such as supplies, chemicals and labor (not to exceed the volunteer rate, \$24.69/hour).
- ◆ All treatment applications approved for cost-share must be conducted during the appropriate time period of May 15th through July 31st by a Certified Pesticide Applicator in good standing with VDACS.
- ◆ All treatment applications must be conducted in accordance with the directions for use as they appear on the product label that has been approved by the EPA.

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The Devastation



Exposed cambium displaying disruptive EAB larval galleries and epicormics sprouts (new growth on trunk)



Exposed cambium displaying D-shaped exit holes and woodpecker flecking




Bark splitting



Winding larval galleries



Felled ash riddled with woodpecker damage



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